

HF Happenings 540

January 2013

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest, 16:00 UTC 18 January to 12:00 UTC 19 January and 12:01 UTC 19 January to 10:00 UTC 20 January
SARL Summer QRP Contest 12:00 - 15:00 UTC 26 January
AWA CW Activity 10:00 UTC 2 February to 10:00 UTC 3 February
SARL National Field Day 10:00 UTC 9 February to 10:00 UTC 10 February

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager reports that the following operations are approved for DXCC credit - *3D2C - Conway Reef, 2012 Operation* and *Z81Z - Republic of South Sudan, current operation commencing 8 January 2013*.

If you had cards previously rejected for the 3D2C operation, please send an e-mail to bmoore@arrl.org to be put on the list for an update. (Thank you Tjerk, ZS6P)

Most Wanted Survey

The DX Magazine's annual Most Wanted Survey was conducted in September and October 2012. The top 20 DXCC Entities are:

2012	Prefix	Entity	2011	2012	Prefix	Entity	2011
1	P5	North Korea	1	11	PYOS	St. Peter & Paul Rocks	16
2	KP1	Navassa Is	2	12	KH5K	Kingman Reef	18
3	3Y	Bouvet Is	3	13	ZL9	Auckland & Campbell Island	15
4	FT5Z	Amsterdam & St. Paul is	6	14	KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Island	17
5	VKO	Heard Is	4	15	SV/A	Mount Athos	14
6	FT5W	Crozet Is	7	16	E3	Eritrea	24
7	BS7H	Scarborough Reef	8	17	BV9P	Pratas Island	21
8	VP8	South Sandwich Is	9	18	FT5J/E	Juan de Nova, Europa Island	20
9	ZS8	Marion Island	10	19	VP8	South Georgia	22
10	FT5T	Tromelin Island	13	20	KH3	Johnston Island	23

The 100 Most Wanted listing, with the results of the 2011 survey for comparison, can be found at <http://www.dxpdb.net/MOST-WANTED-SURVEY.html>. The complete breakdown by continent is published in the January/February 2013 issue of "The DX Magazine"; a breakdown by mode and for 160/80 metres will be published in the March/April 2013 issue.

CQ DX Marathon

John, K9EL, CQ DX Marathon Manager, reports [edited], "The 2012 DX Marathon ended at 00:00 UTC 1 January 1 2013, and the 2013 Marathon began immediately! Yes, everyone's country and zone count reset to Zero and the race for the most countries and CQ zones for

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"





2013 is underway. Everyone can participate in the Marathon - details and complete rules are available at <http://www.dxmarathon.com>

The deadline for submission of 2012 logs is 31 January 2013. We know an earlier date was published, so the date was extended to avoid any confusion. Next year's deadline will be 10 January 2014.

To submit your score, use the latest Marathon Score Sheet (2012.5) that can be downloaded from the DX Marathon website. If you use computer logging, see the website for links to tools that simplify the submission process. Please note if you are using the ADIF to DX Marathon tool created by Jim, AD1C, make sure you are using the latest version. The tool changes each year in response to DX Marathon changes.

Double-check your submission for errors, making sure all information is filled out at the top of the form, BAND data was used instead of frequencies and MODE is either CW, Phone or Digital. SSB is also accepted. If you are entering in Formula Class, be sure to include a detailed description of your antenna. And do not forget to add your comments on the Marathon at the end of the form.

The Marathon offers special awards for single mode and single band submissions. Simply enter only QSOs for a particular band or mode and the computer will classify your submission accordingly.

The DX Marathon website offers additional information on pirates and other helpful hints. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at john@dxmarathon.com

Once your submission has been computer validated for all required information and proper formatting, your call sign will be listed on the received logs page on the DX Marathon website.

High claimed scores will be published in February and the complete results of the 2012 Marathon will be in the June 2013 issue of CQ Magazine."

Triathlon DX Contest

Kostas, SV1DPI, Triathlon DX Contest's Manager, is inviting everyone to participate in the "1st Triathlon DX Contest." The Triathlon will take place the first full weekend of February every year. This year it will be on Saturday 2 February.

Kostas states, "We are trying to simulate the original Triathlon athletic event. So we involved 3 major ham radio modes, RTTY, SSB and CW. It will be a 24 hour non-stop event divided in 3 sections, each one devoted to a different mode.

We start at 00:00 UTC on Saturday, 2 February with RTTY until 07:59 UTC. After that we continue from 08:00 UTC with SSB until 15:59 UTC, and finally there is the CW part starting at 16:00 until 23:59 UTC. The exchange is simple - just 59(9) and a serial number. Multipliers are the DXCC entities in every mode and band plus the number of different Greek stations you will work during the entire contest. There are simple mode categories and mixed mode as well. Also you can make your own teams and participate in team contesting also. The best of all is

January 2013

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 9 – Inland schools open
- 12 and 13 – Hunting Lions in the Air
- 14 – ZS4BS returns to his place of work
- 15 – Last day to provide feedback on the Draft National Radio Frequency Plan to sarlregwg@sarl.org.za
- 16 – Coastal schools open
- 18 to 20 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest
- 19 – Wild Flower Day, Chrissiemeer
- 26 – Summer QRP Sprint
- 26 – Draai and Trap Night Race, Ottosdal
- 31 – Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2013 AGM
- 31 – Last day for submission of a brief outline of a proposed paper at the SA AMSAT Space Symposium on 18 May 2013 to saamsat@sarl.org.za





that the winner will get a wonderful prize: 10 days all paid for 2 persons in Zakynthos Island (EU-052) in Greece, offer of Xenos Hotels Group. You can find more information as well as the complete rules in several languages at <http://www.triathlon-dx-contest.gr>. We are looking for your participation. 73... de Triathlon-DX-Contest team dxtriathlon@gmail.com"

New Facebook group

A new group has been formed on Facebook for amateurs wishing to organise skeds with other amateurs. If you need a particular contact for an award, or just a chat, then go to www.facebook.com/groups/hamsked and have a look.

CQ Facebook "Fans" Top 10 000

Richard, W2VU, Editor of CQ Amateur Radio, reports on 9 January, "CQ Facebook 'Fans' Top 10,000 Mark - Nearly Half under Age 45 - As 2013 began, the number of 'likes' on the CQ Facebook page exceeded 10,000 for the first time. These fans of CQ continue to represent a considerably younger group of ham radio operators than organized ham radio has been reaching through traditional means. CQ has had a page on Facebook since 2010, and the demographics of its fans have remained consistent even at the numbers have grown.

'Over 46% of CQs Facebook fans are under age 45,' said CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. 'In addition, fully three-quarters are under age 55 and 20% are under age 35. This is continued proof that there is a significantly higher number of younger hams 'out there' than we commonly see at club meetings and hamfests. It also shows that reaching these younger hams requires 'meeting them on their turf'.'

Facebook statistics show that CQs fans are drawn from all over the world, with some 20 countries represented and members in the US accounting for fewer than half of the total. CQs Facebook page may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CQMag>.

CQ Amateur Radio magazine www.cq-amateur-radio.com is the world's leading independent amateur radio publication, with print and digital edition readers in over 100 countries. CQ sponsors more than a dozen amateur radio contests and operating awards, including the world's most popular participation sport, the CQ World Wide DX Contest.

CQ is a publication of CQ Communications, Inc., which also publishes Popular Communications www.popular-communications.com, CQ VHF www.cq-vhf.com and WorldRadio Online www.worldradiomagazine.com magazines. In addition, Spanish and Portuguese versions of CQ are published in Spain and Brazil, respectively."

Operating Tip

Under difficult conditions, speaking the name for a numeral in the native language of the listener can make a big difference. The Wikipedia website's list of numbers http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_numbers_in_various_languages in various languages will help you say "five nine" with a global savoir-faire.

Polarity Checker

Michael, NJ2X, and his son Shea, KC2VSR, built the polarity checker described in a recent Hands-On Radio column <http://arrl.org/hands-on-radio> on polarity protection and made it into a very nice how-to article <http://www.nj2x.com/2012/12/project-anderson-powerpole-polarity.html> that is suitable for beginning builders. It would make a nice project for a club "build-it" night, as well, are some of the other DIY (do-it-yourself) projects on his site. A particularly good reason to build the tester is that not all automotive cigar/cigarette connectors





are wired with the centre positive and he lists a number of other reasons that polarity might be reversed.

Rolls of Wire

Here is a great Instructables project on getting those rolls of wire up and out of the way, yet still accessible to the workbench. <http://www.instructables.com/id/Up-out-of-the-way-wire-dispenser/>

Ham Radio Builder

Plenty of good projects <http://hamradio-builder.hamhacker.org/> for the home brewer is online at the Hamradio-Builder website, including this detailed description of how to build your own air-variable capacitors <http://www.qsl.net/n4dfp/buildcaps.html>

Inexpensive Memory Keyer

IZ5OVP has designed a very inexpensive memory keyer that anyone can use but it might take a little time to program and more time to change the messages!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAxUb6EPPTy. Back in the day, there were a number of PCB-based "memory keyers" constructed by using a knife to create the message by removing copper from the board. If the rig was cathode-keyed, there was often enough juice to create burns and pits in the copper as an added attraction! While you are practicing your technique - here is a useful training film www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8q57EQ_3SQ&feature=youtu.be for aspiring brass pounders, too.

Word to the Wise

"No single method is ever 100%." K4PI

African DX

Sudan, ST. Lourens, ZS6AKB, is currently active as ST2/ZS6AKB when mobile in the Darfur region of Sudan. The length of his stay is not known, but he was heard on 20 metres on 10 January, between 16:00 and 16:40 UTC on 14 181 kHz. He used a FT-857 with a Tarrheel 11 antenna.

Egypt, SU. Gerd, DJ5IW, will once again be active as SU/DJ5IW from El Fardous between 14 January and 8 February. Activity will be limited to his spare time and mainly on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters CW only using an IC-756 PRO with 100 watts. There will be no 80 or 30 m and RTTY because it is not allowed in Egypt. QSL via his home call sign.

South Sudan, Z8. Ken, K4ZW, is currently active as Z81Z from Juba. His length of stay is unknown at this time, but some reports say a month. Activity will be 80 - 10 metres CW. He was heard this past week on 40, 20 and 15 metres. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by LoTW.

Chad, TT. Sergiy, US3EZ, is signing TT8/US3EZ until March 2013. QSL via homecall.

African Islands

Zanzibar Island, 5H1. Sam, F6AML, will once again be active from Jambiani, Zanzibar island (AF-032, WLOTA 1080, WW Loc. KI93SQ), as 5H1Z between 20 January and 28 February 2013. Using an FT857D, Linear 400 W and verticals look for him on 40 - 10 metres CW and SSB. He says he may also try to be active from Mafia island (AF-054), Pemba island (AF-063, WLOTA





1437) and the Dar Es Salaam/Pwani Region Group (AF-075). QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Note: no internet/cluster connection. Website www.qrz.com/db/5H1Z

Reunion Island, FR. Operator Pierre, F8APV, will once again return to Reunion Island (AF-016) this time with Stéphane, F8EOI, and be active as FR/F8APV and FR/F8EOI between 21 January 21st and 8 February. Activity will be active on 40 - 10 metres, using a Buddipole antenna system (longer than standard with telescopic long whip) and with a focus on 30 metres CW and 20 metres SSB. QSL via home call signs. Pierre will accept skeds at pierre.goasguen.f8apv@gmail.com

Seychelles Bert, CX3AN, will be active from Marl self-catering bungalow, Pointe Larue, Mahe island (WLOTA 3286, WW Loc. LI75SH), inner Seychelles (AF-024) from 3 to 11 February 2013 as S79AN. He will be active on 80 to 6 m including the WARC bands - mostly SSB and CW. QSL via home call. Website www.qrz.com/db/S79AN

Special Event Stations

Russia. Several special event stations are active (or will be) from Russia:

UE70Q - 18 January until 2 March, 70th anniversary of the liberation of Voronezh city

UE70DP - until 23 February, Victory of the Soviet troops over Nazi forces at Stalingrad

UE75VV - until 31 January, 75th birthday of V.S. Vysotsky

RK70SF - until 23 February, 70th anniversary of the liberation from the Nazi forces

RA70MK and R70SGG - until 20 February, 70th anniversary of the beginning of the defeat of the Nazi forces at Stalingrad

R350FP - until 31 March, 350th anniversary of Pensa city

No QSL route is known for these stations but you may try it via bureau.

Other DX

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 14 to 21 January 2013.

AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest

23:00 UTC 16 January to 23:00 UTC 17 January and 23:00 UTC 19 January to 23:00 UTC 20 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, Eqpt Year and Input Power - see rules for format

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 17 February 2013

E-mail logs to: mjmurphy45@comcast.net

Mail logs to: Mike Murphy, 38 North Reading St., Manchester, NH 03104, USA

Find rules at: http://www.antiquewireless.org/pdf/AWA_2012-2013_Event_Schedule.pdf

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint





01:30 - 03:30 UTC 17 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 20 January 2013

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint201201.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 18 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC January 19, 2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 20 January 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

Feld Hell Sprint





00:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 January

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 26 January 2013

E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules>

LZ Open Contest

00:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; QRP

Max power: QRP: 5 W

Exchange: 3-Digit serial no and 3-Digit serial no received from last QSO

Work stations: Once each 30 minutes

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 29 January 2013

E-mail logs to: LZ1GL@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm>

YL-ISSB SSB QSO Party

00:00 UTC 19 January to 23:59 UTC 20 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: All

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T), name, state, province or country and YLISSB no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 March 2013

E-mail logs to: ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca

Mail logs to: Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, 13 Rufus Ave, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3N 2L4, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.ylsystem.org/qsoParty/qsoDates.htm>

Hungarian DX Contest

12:00 UTC 19 January to 1159Z 20 January





Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - CW or SSB - low or high; Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - Mixed, CW or SSB - low or high; Single Op Two Radio Mixed High Power; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi; SWL

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: HA: RS(T) and 2-letter county; non-HA: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 1 point per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 6 points per QSO with HA station

Multipliers: Hungarian counties, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 February 2013

E-mail logs to: hadx@mrasz.axelero.net

Upload log at: <http://www.ha-dx.com/HADX/>

Mail logs to: MRASZ, 1400 Budapest, PO Box 11, Hungary

Find rules at: http://www.ha-dx.com/HADX/html/rules_en.html

North American SSB QSO Party

18:00 UTC 19 January to 05:59 UTC 20 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 January 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagplogsubmit.php>

Mail logs to: Bill Lippert, AC0W, 2013 6th Avenue SE, Austin, MN 55912-4321, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 January 2013





E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 23 January

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 23 January

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 23 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 24 January

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 25 January

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 25 January

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 January

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW, 22:00 UTC 25 January to 22:00 UTC 27 January

REF Contest, CW, 06:00 UTC 26 January to 18:00 UTC 27 January

BARTG RTTY Sprint, 12:00 UTC 26 January to 12:00 UTC 27 January

UBA DX Contest, SSB, 13:00 UTC 26 January to 13:00 UTC 27 January

SPAR Winter Field Day, 17:00 UTC 26 January to 17:00 UTC 27 January

WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 26 January

Classic Exchange, CW, 14:00 UTC 27 January to 08:00 UTC 28 January

QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint, 20:00 - 23:59 UTC 27 January

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 14 January 2013

1840 - Charles Wheatstone and W.F. Cooke were granted the earliest English alphabetic telegraph patent

1868 - A patent for a refrigerator car, "ice box on wheels," was granted to William Davis, a fish dealer in Detroit

1882 - T.A. Edison was issued a patent, No. 252,442, to improve the telephone with a carbon microphone.

1886 - Benz makes the first automobile

1896 - X-rays were first used in a clinical setting, both in America and in Germany

1903 - Vacuum tubes were developed to allow more effective transmission of radio signals

1903 - King Edward VII and Pres. T. Roosevelt exchanged greetings by radio between Cape Cod and Cornwall, England

1939 - The uranium atom was split for the first time using the cyclotron at Columbia University in New York City

2013 - ZS4BS goes back to work after a month of holiday (14th)

Items used with acknowledgement to *The ARRL Letter*, *Amateur Radio Newsline*, *OPDX Bulletin*, *425 DX Bulletin*, *DXNL Bulletin*, *ARRL DX News*, *WIA-News*, the *RSGB News* and *Southgate ARC*



"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"

